

# COG NEWS

Coastal Bend Council of Governments Newsletter



COASTAL BEND  
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

## In this issue:

- ◆ Regional Resilience Partnership
- ◆ GeoRED
- ◆ Welcome Chair Rios
- ◆ Dementia Friendly City
- ◆ CARES Conference Room
- ◆ Freeze Response
- ◆ Meet John Buckner
- ◆ CBCOG Unveils New Logo
- ◆ CBCOG Vaccination Volunteers



## WELCOME CHAIR RIOS!

**Incoming Board Chair Patrick Rios presents Past Chair Nina Trevino with a token of gratitude for her many years of service to the Coastal Bend Council of Governments January, 2021**

## RRP Bounces Back

Coastal Bend Council of Governments and Texas A&M Corpus Christi Harte Research Institute entered into a formal MOU to create the Regional Resiliency Partnership (RRP).

The RRP provides an Action Team designed to respond in real time to crisis, provides training and resources to stakeholders, and secures needed funding to accomplish objectives.

Already RRP boasts projects such as GeoRed (see below), and Resiliency Leadership Program scheduled for May 26th.



*“Crisis is a fact of life,”*

*says Emily Martinez,  
Director of Regional  
Economic Development,  
Coastal Bend COG.*

*“The RRP initiative gives the  
COG tools to respond  
quickly, while preparing the  
Coastal Bend to withstand  
future challenges. “*

# GeoRED

Using tech to solve problems

## Q: What is GeoRED?

A: Geospatial Resilient Economic Development. An RRP Project .

## Q: What does GeoRED do?

A: Collect GIS Data to identify high risk areas, train practitioners to use data for real-time response, and distribute data to stakeholders .

## Q: What counties will participate?

A: Aransas, Bee, Refugio, and San Patricio Counties. Look for additional counties to be added soon!



## MEET JOHN BUCKNER

Few organizations can boast leadership with the commitment of John P. Buckner. Originally from rural Texas, John joined the CBCOG as an Environmental Engineer/Planner in 1971. Since 1977, John has served as Executive Director. In this capacity, John has worked with our 11 Counties and 35 Cities to collaborate on economic development, tourism, water resources, environmental protection, crime control, public health and public welfare. He is a licensed Texas Professional Engineer. John holds a BS in Civil Engineering and a MS in Environmental Health Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin. John is a life member in the American Society of Civil Engineers and The National Society of Professional Engineers.

## AAA Announces Dementia Friendly City

Corpus Christi has been designated a **Dementia Friendly Community!**

The designation is awarded by Dementia Friendly America, a national network of communities, organizations and individuals. Dementia Friendly America seeks to ensure that communities across the U.S. are equipped to support people living with dementia and their caregivers. Area Agency on Aging is a program division of Coastal Bend Council of Governments.



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# CARES ACT FUNDS STATE OF ART MEETING SPACE

The COG applied for CARES Act funding to enhance the ability to connect to stakeholders during the pandemic. A portion of the funding was used to equip the large conference room with teleconferencing equipment including monitors, cameras, speakers and microphones. The new technology will make it easier for stakeholders to participate remotely. This will save time and increase participation by key stakeholders.



*RJ Thomas and Shelby Simms set up the ZOOM*



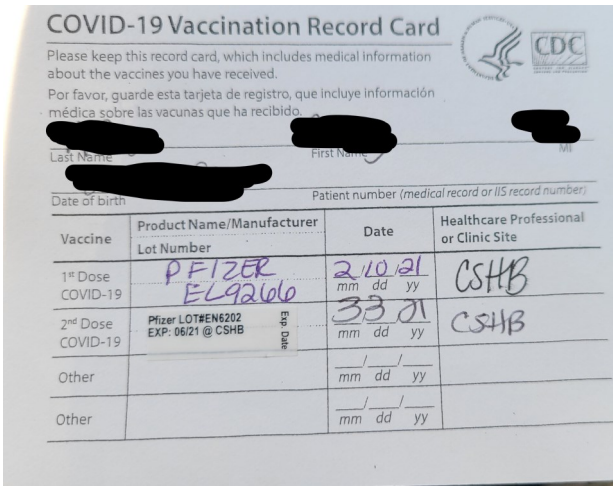
*The January 2021 Board of Directors Meeting was held in the upgraded space. Members attended in person and virtually via ZOOM.*

## DEEP FREEZE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

The impact from the extreme cold during the week of February 15, 2021 will reverberate for months. FEMA and other agencies will be allocating recovery monies to those hit the hardest. Our region MUST convey the damages we've incurred or risk being left in the cold when funding is released. This is particularly true for rural areas.

CBCOG in conjunction with RRP reached out to rural communities to provide information to TDEM (Texas Division of Emergency Management). The information gathered will help FEMA allocate funds to the areas hit hardest.





*The sooner we get folks vaccinated, the sooner we can focus on the next emergency*

**-RJ Thomas**

*Homeland Security Coordinator*

## VAX VOLUNTEERS

Since January, CBCOG Mobilized more than 625 volunteers to provide covid vaccinations to area citizens.

## CBCOG Unveils New Logo

Coastal Bend Council of Governments challenged art students at Texas A&M Corpus Christi to create a logo for the 21st century. A committee of COG Board Members and Staff met to review submissions and choose a logo. Student Jacob Sazon produced the winning entry.

*The icon consists of an orange sun, which helps represent the light this organization shines upon South Texas. The stars in the middle represent the six original counties, symbolizing the authority and longevity of the original organization. The five waves represent the rest of the eleven counties and symbolize the growth and the flow of momentum as the organization continues to progress and grow in modern times - as it adapts new ways to serve their community. This new logo for the Coastal Bend Council of Government is modern and elegant but holds true to their authority and reliability, truly conveying the important role the organization has played since 1966, and the impact it will make for years to come. — Jacob Sazon*



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